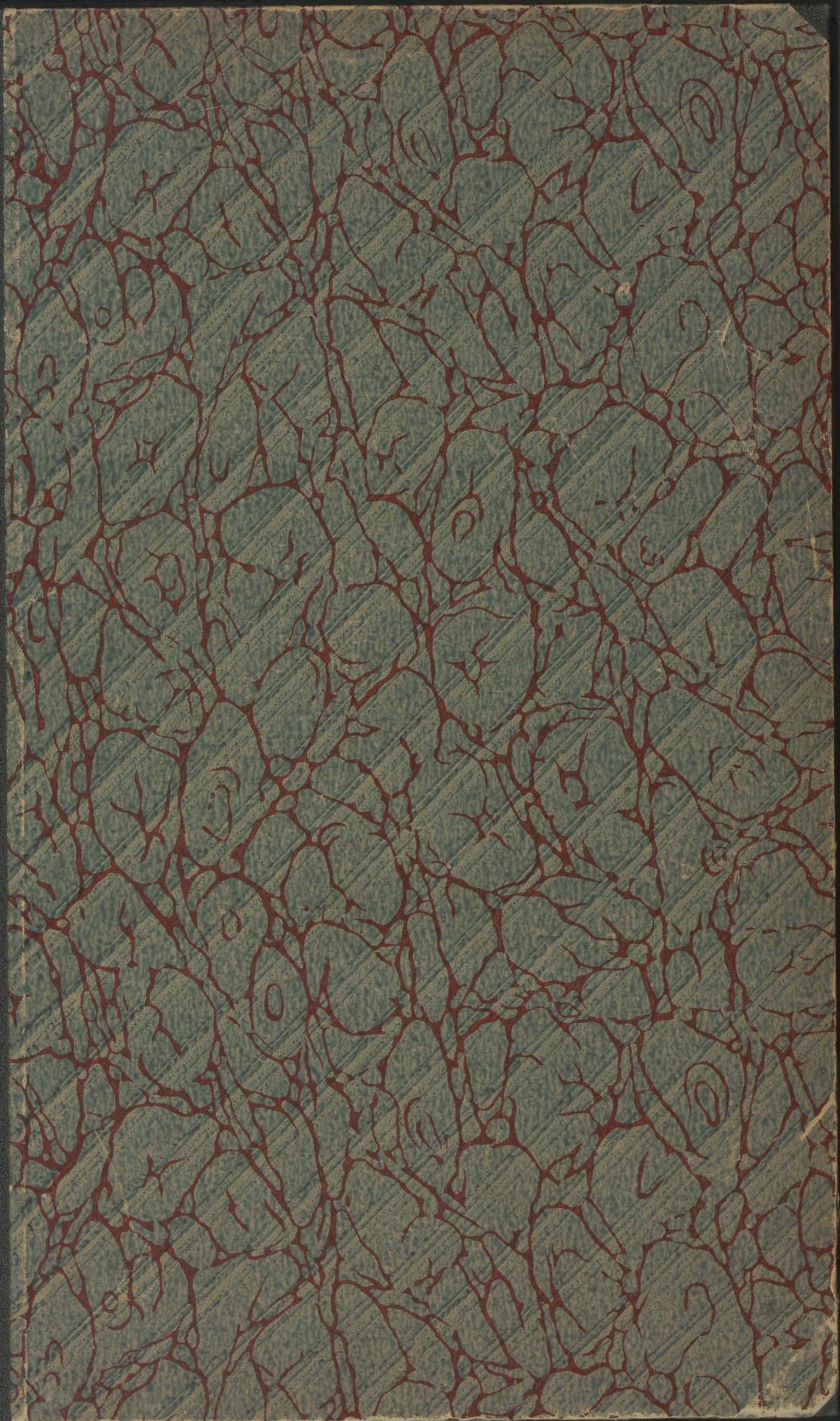


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G. Med. Gutowski

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N. Inv. 1123.

Mount Vernon 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1784

My dear Humphry!

I have been favored with your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> - Be assured that there are few things which would give me more pleasure than opportunities of convincing to you the sincerity of my friendship, & disposition to render your services at any time when it may be in my power

Although all recommendations from me to Congress must now be considered as coming from a private character, yet I enter very chearfully into your views; and as far as my suggestions of them to that Hon<sup>ble</sup> Body, accompanied by my testimonial of your competency to the execution of the duties of either of the offices in contemplation with go you have them freely, & the enclosed letter, which is a copy of the one I have written to Congress on the occasion will bear evidence of my good wishes whatever may be the success. -

9

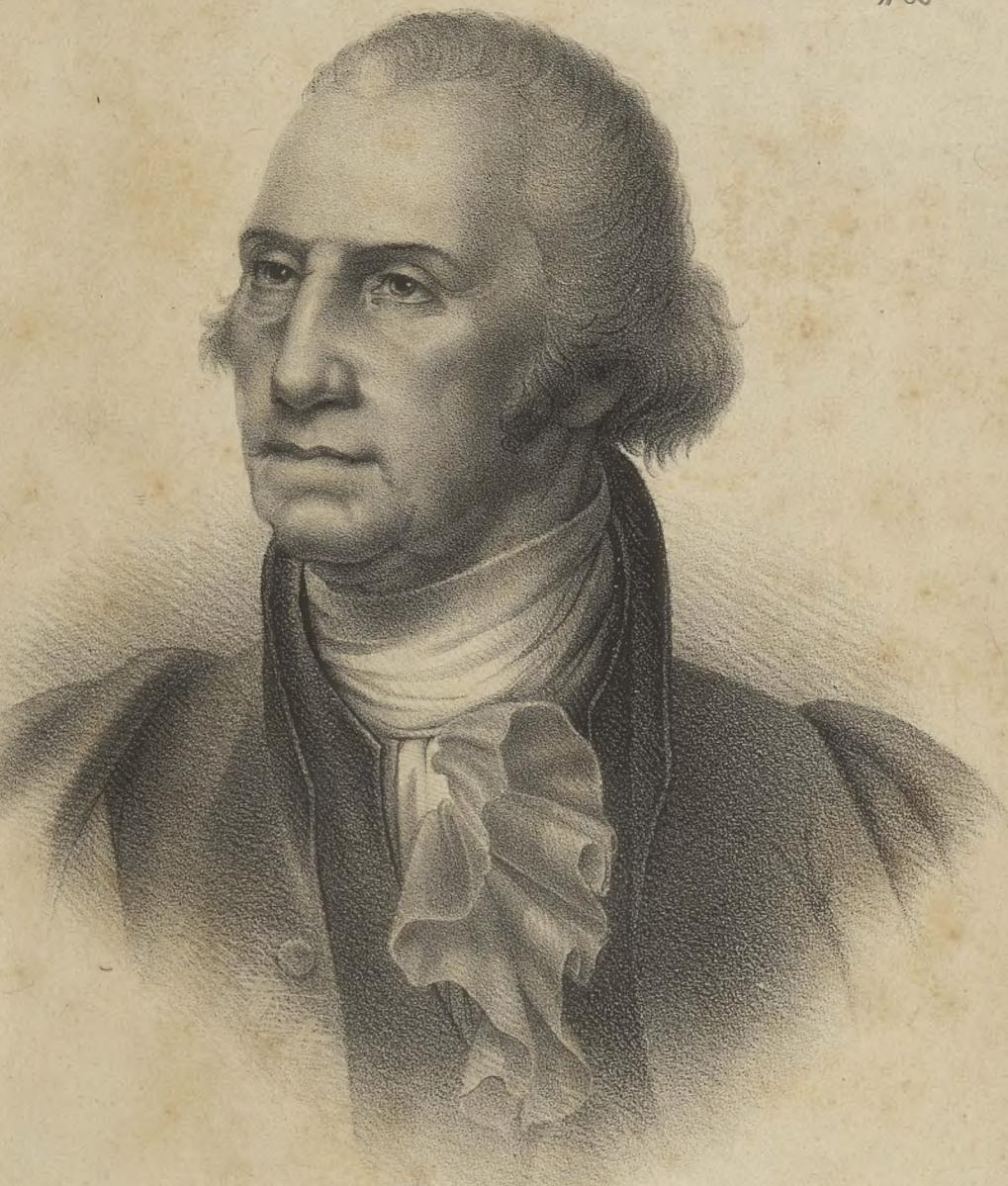
I cannot take my leave of  
you without offering those acknowledgements  
of your long & valuable services  
to the publick which your merit justly  
entitle you to & a grateful heart should  
not withhold - and I feel very sensibly the  
obligations I am personally under to you for  
the aid I have derived from your ability  
for the cheerful assistance you have af-  
fided me upon many interesting occasions  
and for the attachment which you have  
always manifested towards me. — I  
hold it a pleasing remembrance the friend-  
ship & intimacy which has subsisted be-  
tween us and that reflects no opportunity  
on my part to cultivate & improve them  
being with unfeigned esteem & regard

D<sup>r</sup> Sir

G<sup>r</sup> Most affec<sup>t</sup> friend  
Loved<sup>1</sup> Son

G<sup>r</sup> Washington

Col<sup>t</sup> Humphreys



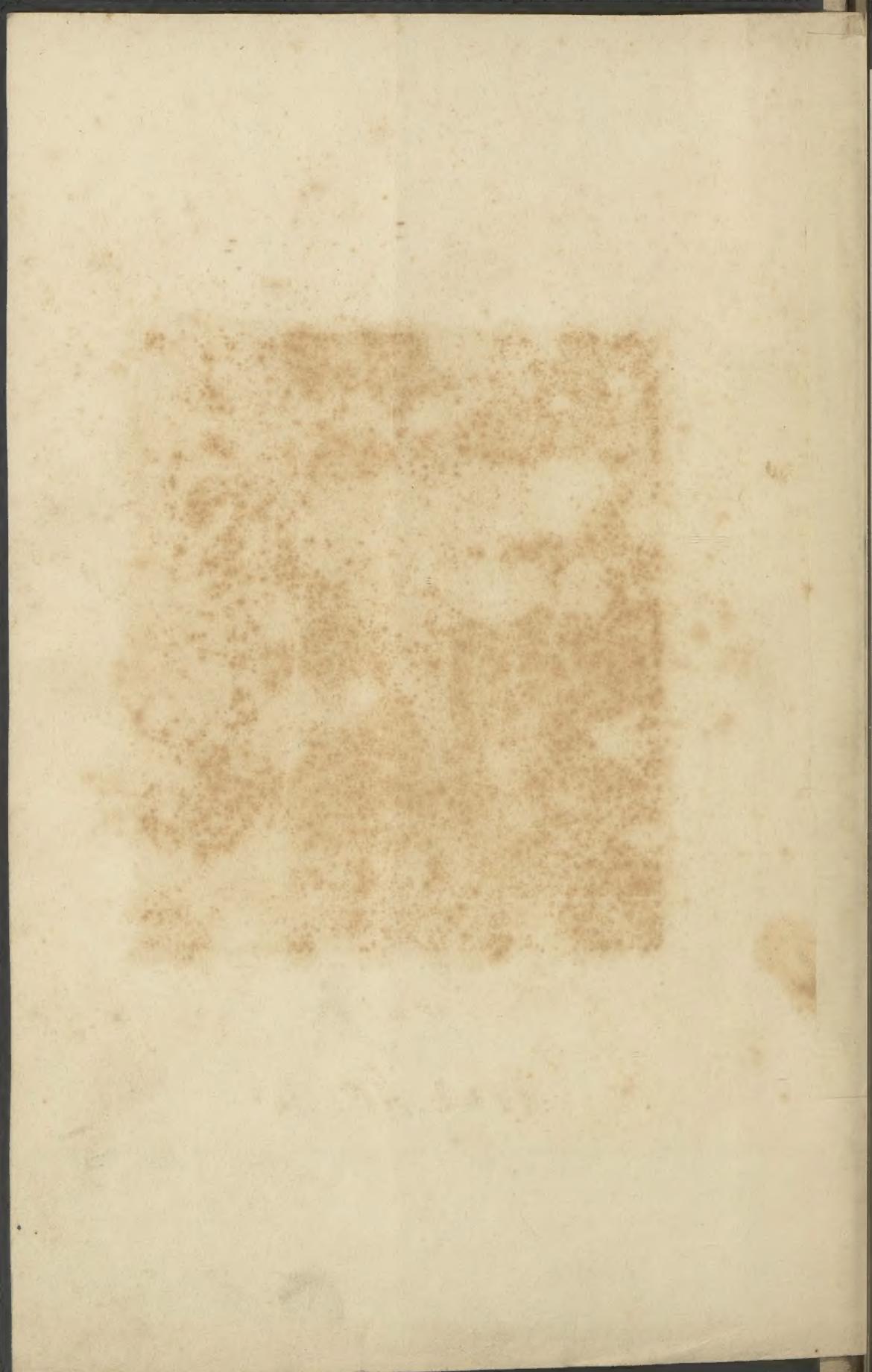
Rembrandt Peale Esq.

Lith. of Peale, Washington City

G. Washington

Born February 22<sup>d</sup> 1732.

Dece<sup>d</sup>t December 14<sup>th</sup> 1799.





1860

Moore, N. C. Dec<sup>2</sup> 26. 1786

5

My dear Humphreys

I am much indebted to you for your several favors of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> of November. — The last came first. — In mine keeping in mind the old proverb, was determined not to make more haste than good speed in prosecuting his journey to Georgia — so for the two first but late!

For a due publication respecting the confinement of Capt. Argue, I am exceedingly obliged to you. — The manner of making it was as good as could be devised, — and the matter with more the injustice as well as illiberality of the report which have been circulated on that occasion, and which are gathered of that Officer, as the author.

It is with the deepest, and most heart felt concern, I perceive by some late paragraphs extracted from the Boston Gazette, that the Insurgents of Massachusetts — far from being satisfied with the Redress offered by their General Court — are still acting in open violation of law & government, & have obliged the Chief Magistrate in a decided tone to call up the militia of the State to support the Constitution. —

What

What, gracious God is man! That he  
should be such inconsistency in his con-  
duct? - It is but the other day we were  
shedding our blood to obtain the Constitu-  
tions under which we now live - Con-  
stitutions of our own choice & framing  
and now we are unsheathing the sword  
to overturn them! - The thing is incon-  
ceivable, that I hardly know how to rea-  
son it, or to persuade myself that I am  
ever under the vision of a dream. --

My mind previous to the receipt  
of your letter of the first ult. had often  
been agitated by thoughts similar to those  
you have expressed respecting a cold fr.  
of yours; but Heaven forbid that a crisis  
should arrive when he should be driven  
to the necessity of making a choice of  
the alternatives therementioned. --  
Let me entreat you my dear Sir, to keep  
me advised of the situation of Affairs in  
your quarter. - I can depend upon your  
acc<sup>d</sup>. - Newspaper paragraphs unsupported  
by other testimony, are often contradictory & bewildering. - At present these  
insurgents are represented as a mere mob  
- at other times as systematic in their  
proceedings. - If the first, I would fain  
hope that like other mobs, it will, however  
formidable, be of short duration. - If the latter,  
there surely are men of consequence and  
abilities behind the curtain, who move the  
puppets. - The designs of whom may be deep  
& dangerous. - They may be instigated by

Bretton

There is ~~as~~ <sup>in</sup> every thing opposed to prevent  
the effusion of blood, and to avert the humili-  
ating & contemptible figure we are about to  
make, in the annals of mankind. -

If this second attempt to conciliate the  
States for the purposes proposed in the report  
of the partial representation at Annapolis  
in September last, should also prove abortive  
it may be considered as an unequivocal  
proof that the States are not likely  
to agree on any general measure which is  
to prevail the Union & consequently, that  
there is an end put to Federal conciliation.

The States <sup>therefore</sup> who make this last  
dying essay to avoid the misfortune <sup>of a dissolution</sup> would  
be entitled at the issue, <sup>as</sup> in their opinion,  
would return home <sup>to</sup> be agreed at which  
success & disappointment. - This would  
be a disagreeable predicament for any  
of them to be in, but more particularly  
so for a person in my situation. - If no  
further application is made to me, of  
course I do not attend. - If there is, I am  
under no obligation to do it; but as I have  
had so many proofs of your friendship -  
upon your abilities to judge - and your  
opportunities of learning the politics  
of the day, on the points I have enum-  
erated you would oblige me by a full &  
confidential communication of your  
sentiments thereon. -

Peace & tranquility prevail in  
this state. The Assembly by a very great  
majority, and in very emphatic terms  
have

have rejected an application for paper  
money; and shunned the idea of lessening  
the value of Military certificates by a  
scale of depreciation. - In some other  
respects too, the proceeding, of the preser-  
t session have been marked with justice  
and a sharp desire of supporting the  
federal system. -

Although I lament the effect  
I am pleased at the cause which has  
deprived us of our aid in the attack  
of Christmas. Yes. - We had ex-yes-  
terday on which all the company  
(and pretty numerous) were hardly  
able to make an impression. - In  
Washington, George & his wife (M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Sean  
I had occasions to send into the Western  
Country, for aiafectate regard  
ferrying - & with sentiments of the  
warmest friendship

I am - sincerely,  
Yours

E. J. Walker, Jr.

Col<sup>o</sup> Humphrey



Brasil and Costa Rica

British Councils - actuated by ambitious motives - or being influenced by dishonest principles had rather see the Country plunged in civil discord than do what Justice would dictate to an honest mind.

I had hardly dispatched my circular letter to the several State Societies of the Cincinnati, when I received letters from some of the principal members of our Assembly, expressing a wish that they might be permitted to name me a member of the Deputies to the convention proposed to be held at Philadelphia, the first of May next. - I immediately wrote to my particular friend Madison (I similarly to the rest) the answer contained in the extract N<sup>o</sup> 1 - In reply I got N<sup>o</sup> 2. - This obliged me to be more explicit & confidential with him, or first which a recurrence to the conversations we have had on this subject tributing to your mind without my hazarding the recital of them. - Since this interchange, I have received from the Governor the letter N<sup>o</sup> 4. to which I returned the answer N<sup>o</sup> 5. -

If this business should be further pursued (which I hope it will not, as I have no inclination or to go) what had I best do? - You as an indifferent person - one who is much better acquainted with the sentiments & views of the Cincinnati than I am & for in this state where the recommendation of the General meeting has been acceded to hardly any thing is said about it - as also with the temper of the people and the state of Politics at large, can determine upon

upon fuller evidence, & better ground than  
myself - especially as you will know it in a  
light the states to the Eastward consider the  
Convention & the measures they are pur-  
suing to contravene or give efficacy to it. - On  
the last occasion only five states were pre-  
sented - here East of New York. - Why the  
New England governments did not appear  
I am yet to learn. For of all others, the di-  
fraction, & turbulent temper of their leaders  
would, I should have thought, <sup>have</sup> afforded the  
strongest evidence of the necessity of con-  
tent powers somewhere. - That the fœdus  
government is nearly, if not quite at a stand-  
ing with deru. The question then is can it be  
propt. or shall it be annihilated? - If the  
former, the proposed Convention is a sub-  
ject of the first magnitude, and should be sup-  
ported by all the friends of the present con-  
stitution. - In the other case, if on a full and  
desperately revision thereof, the confed.  
and states shall be adjudged impracticable o  
unwise, would it not be better for such  
meeting to suggest some other to avoid ev-  
ery possible, civil discord, or other impendi-  
ng evils. - And our <sup>honest</sup> oblige me to confess that  
as we could not remain quiet more than  
three or four years (in time of peace) under  
the constitution of our own choice, which  
was believed in many instances, were a form  
with deliberation & wisdom, I see little prospe-  
ct of our agreeing upon an other, or that  
we should remain long satisfied under it  
if we could - yet I would wish to see an  
other

W. June. 1785

Mount Vernon July 25. 1785.

My dear Humphreys

Duplicate.

Since my last to you I have received your letters of the 15<sup>th</sup> of last, and (I believe) that of the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov; & thank you for them both — It always gives me pleasure to hear from you; and I should think, if amusement would spare you, business could not so much absorb your time as to prevent your writing to me more frequently; especially as there is a regular & safe conveyance once a month, by the Packet.

As the complexion of European politics seen neare from the letters I have received from the Marquis de la Fayette & Chartres. — The Chev. de Lacluzerne &c<sup>o</sup> to have a tendency to Peace, I will say nothing of War, — nor make any animadversions upon the contending Powers. — Otherwise I might possibly have added, that the retreat from it seemed impossible, after the explicit declarations of the Parties. —

My first wish is, to see this plague to man kind banished from the Earth; & the sons & daughters of this world employed in more pleasing & incessant amusements. than in preparing implements, exercising them for the destruction of the human race. — Rather than quarrelab<sup>t</sup> territory, let the hoar, the ready, & oppressed of the Earth; and those who want land, resort to the fertile plains of our western Country, — to the second land of promise, & there dwell in peace, fulfilling the first & great commandment. —

In a former letter I informed you, my dear Humphreys, that if I had talents for it, I have no leisure to devote my time & thought to

to Commentaries. — I am conscious of a defective education, & want of capacity to fit me for such a undertaking. — What with Company, Letters, & other matters, many of them extraneous, I have not yet been able to arrange my own private concerns so as to rescue them from that disordered state into which they have been thrown, by the War; and to do which, is become indispensably necessary for my support, while I remain on this stage of human action. —

The sentiment of your last letter on this subject gave me great pleasure. — I should indeed be pleased to see you undertake this business. — Your abilities as a writer. — Your discernment respecting the principles which lead to the decision by arms. — Your personal knowledge of many facts as they occurred, in the progress of the war. — Your disposition to justice, candour & impartiality, and your diligence in investigating both, combining, fits you, in the vigor of life for this task. and I should with great pleasure not only give you the perusal of all my Papers, but any oral information of circumstances which cannot be obtained from the latter, that my memory will furnish. — And I can with great truth add, that my House would not only beat your Service during the period of your preparing this work, but, (and without an unnecessary compliment, I say it) I should be exceedingly happy if you would make it your home. — You might have an Apartment to yourself in which you could command your own time. — You would be considered, & treated as one of the family. — And would meet with that cordial reception & entertainment, which are characteristic of the sincerest friendship. —

To reverberate European News would be idle; and we have little of a domestic kind worthy of attention. — We have held treaties indeed with the Indians, but they were so unassassably delayed that these people from our last account from the western are

are in a disconcerted mood - supposed by many to be  
instigated thereto by our late enemy - men, to be sure,  
good & fast friends; who, from any thing I can learn,  
under the indefinite expression of the heatsy, held, &  
seen resolved to retain, possession of our Western Port.

— Congress has also - after long & tedious delibera-  
tion - passed an Ordinance for laying of the Western  
territory into States, & for disposing of the land;  
but in a manner, and on terms, which few people  
(in the Southern States) conceive can be accomplished.

— Both sides are sure, & the event is appealed to -  
time must decide. — It is to be regretted however,  
that local politics, & self interested views, obtrude  
themselves into every measure of public utility.

— But on such characters, be the obloquy - My  
attention is more immediately engaged in a project  
which I think is big with great political, as well as  
commercial consequences to these States, especially  
the middle ones. — It is, by removing the obstruction  
— and extending the inland navigations of our Rivers,  
to bring the States on the Atlantic in close connection  
with those forming to the Westward, by a short & easy  
land transportation. — Without this is effected, I  
can readily conceive that the Western settlers will  
have different views - seporate interests - and  
other attractions. —

I may be singular in my ideas, but  
they are these, that to open <sup>the front</sup> door to, & make easy  
the way for the Westward (which ought to progress  
regularly & compactly,) before we make any stir  
about the navigation of the Mississippi, and before  
our settlements are far advanced towards that River  
would be our true line of policy. — It can I think be  
demonstrated, that the produce of the Western territory  
(if the navigations which are now in hand succeed,  
and of which I have no doubt) as far down the Ohio  
as the Great Kappawa (I believe to the Falls) - and

between the parts above the lakes, may be brought  
up to the highest shipping port on this river  
River, at a less expence, with more ease (including  
the return) and in a much shorter time than it can  
be carried to New Orleans, if the Spaniards, instead  
of restrictions were to throw open their ports, & exalt  
our Trade - But if the commerce of that Country  
embrace this channel, and corrections &formed,  
experience has taught us / and there is a very re-  
cent one in proof, with Great Britain) how great is  
impracticable it is to divert it - and if that shd.  
be the case, the Atlantic States (especially as they go  
the Westward with, in a great degree, junks with, incum-  
bers) except to excite - perhaps with too much cause  
our fears that the Country of California, which  
is still more to the Westward, & belonging to another  
Power. - M<sup>r</sup> Washington presents her comple-  
ments to you, and with every wish for your  
happiness.

I am - My dear Humphrey,  
Y<sup>r</sup> sincere friend and  
affectionate H<sup>r</sup>ry  
G Washington

David Humphrey, Esq.<sup>3</sup>

